

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 EB-05 DRC-01 RSC-01 /014 W

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R 040831Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8984

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS NAIROBI 7469

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, KE

SUBJ: OPPORTUNITY FOR NIGERIAN ACTORS IN KENYA

1. IN CALL ON AMBASSADOR AUG. 27, JOHN H. MITCHELL, PRESIDENT, COLUMBIA PICTURES TELEVISION, AND PAUL B. RADIN, ON-SITE PRODUCER OF TV SERIES "BORN FREE" WHICH COLUMBIA NOW FILMING NEAR LAKE NAIVASHA, KENYA, RAISED PROBLEM OF ACQUIRING "NEW FACES" FOR SMALL PARTS IN WEEKLY EPISODES.
2. SERIES WILL PREMIERE 8 PM, MONDAY, SEPT. 9, IN USA ON NBC AND WILL CONTINUE WEEKLY ON PRIME TIME WITH OCCASIONAL GUEST STARS SUCH AS PETER LAWFORD. MITCHELL HOPES SERIES WILL WARRANT FILMING FOR AS LONG AS FOUR YEARS AND THINKS THAT SUCCESS MAY BE MEASURABLE AS EARLY AS NOV 1, 1974.
3. RADIN IS CURRENTLY BRINGING TWO BLACK ACTORS A WEEK FROM UK. HE FINDS THEIR TRANSPORTATION EXPENSIVE AND NOT ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL, AS HE PUTS IT, TO AFRICA. HE HAS ASCERTAINED THAT ISSUANCE OF KENYAN VISAS FOR BLACK ACTORS FROM SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE TOO SLOW.
4. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF BLACK ACTORS FROM NIGERIA. RADIN SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND WISHED TO EXPLORE IDEA WITHOUT COMMITMENT.

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5. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PRELIMINARY ASSESS-

MENT OF THIS POSSIBILITY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO
FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A. APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF BLACK, MALE ACTORS
AVAILABLE IN NIGERIA.
- B. ESTIMATE OF WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL.
- C. USUAL RANGE OF SALARIES.
- D. POINT OF CONTACT FOR RADIN IN LAGOS.

6. UPON RECEIPT THIS INFO, EMB WILL PASS IT TO RADIN,
WHO HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION. MARSHALL

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